Shortages of universities in the country

†4131. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of universities is insufficient in the country to go ahead in the world level education and the competition of talents full of challenges during this time of globalization;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, at present, there are only 350 universities in the country and the National Commission for Knowledge has given its advice to Government to increase the number showing the necessity of at least 1500 universities; and

(c) if so, the view point of Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir, the quality of higher education does not necessarily depend on the number of universities.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 377 universities/institutions included under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956. The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) in its Report on Higher Education has recommended that there should be at least 1500 universities in the country. The recommendation of the NKC is in the public domain for wider debate amongst all stake holders.

Rigid norms for engineering colleges

†4132. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to adopt a strict attitude with regard to compliance of stipulated infrastructure and facility norms by private engineering colleges from the ensuing year;

(b) if so, the names of such colleges where such lacunas have been observed; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mathematics paper in Maharashtra Board

4133. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the decision of the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Education that 15 marks would be given to all students for question number 6 in all the four sets of algebra and geometry papers in the ongoing SSC examination after complaints of students;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government have issued any advice to the State Government of Maharashtra in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any steps for making maths more innovative, interesting and application based for secondary and higher secondary levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Government of Maharashtra, after the Class-X mathematics paper-I (Algebra) and paper-II (Geometry) examination of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education held on 20th and 21st March, 2007 respectively, representations were received about the difficulty levels of the question papers. After examining the representations it was decided to accord 15 marks each to all students for the D level questions in all sets in paper-I and paper-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.